

## CROWN OR PEOPLE?

## WHAT SOME ARMIES OF EUROPE MAY BE ASKED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Less than forty years ago troops, in obedience to the commands of their sovereigns, turned their guns upon the people and shot and bayoneted men, women and even children until blood flowed like water in the streets of Berlin, Vienna and of many other of the capitals of the Old World. It was not a mere mob of tramps and toughs with whom the military was called upon to deal, but well-to-do and highly educated citizens—professional men, merchants, manufacturers, politicians and legislators—in fact, all that element which goes to make up what is known in the Old World as the "Bourgeoisie" and middle classes, who were endeavoring to secure the political rights solemnly promised to them by the terms of the constitutions decreed by their respective rulers, but which the latter declined to put into force until compelled by the people.

## BROUGHT TO THE FRONT IN ITALY.

Would the troops, if called upon to-day to fire upon their fellow-countrymen, manifest similar obedience to the behest of the "Anointed of the Lord"? That is a question which at the present moment is occupying to a far greater degree than people in this country might be inclined to believe, the attention of the crowned heads of Europe, and it has within the last few days been brought before the public through a resolution submitted to the Italian Parliament providing for the substitution of the word "national" for that of "royal" in the official description of the army. The arguments put forward by the supporters of the motion, which was eventually defeated by the Ministerial party, which possesses a majority in the Legislature, were not only logical, but also powerful, and cannot fail to appeal strongly to the people of Italy, as well as every other civilized nation, and must assuredly have afforded very serious grounds for reflection to King Humbert and to his brother and sister monarchs.

The command and control of the army has from time immemorial been regarded as the principal source of power in civilized as well as in barbarian States, if not "de jure," at any rate "de facto." In France this is understood so well that the people even go to the extent of declining to permit the creation of the office of generalissimo, insisting that the command-in-chief of the army shall remain vested in the hands of the Minister of War for the time being, who, sometimes a military man and sometimes a civilian, is subject to the supervision and control of Parliament, and can be removed by the latter as soon as he proves himself to be either inefficient, insubordinate or untrustworthy. In England much the same thing is the case, the practical, though perhaps not theoretical, transfer of the command of the army from the Crown to Parliament having been quietly effected during the last two or three years. For, whereas until the resignation of Prince George of Great Britain, the Duke of Cambridge, the latter was the real generalissimo of the military forces of the Empire, exercising in the name of the Queen only his office, which he considered that he held direct from his august cousin, to whom alone, moreover, he regarded himself as responsible, the command-in-chief to-day is wielded, not by his nominal successor, Field-Marshal Lord Wolseley, but by the civilian Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, to whose orders Lord Wolseley is obliged to defer.

## THE QUEEN'S SUBMISSION.

Queen Victoria did not consent to this radical change without a struggle. The great Duke of Wellington, who, from the time of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1837 until his death in 1852, was her principal adviser in all military matters, was never tired of impressing upon her mind the necessity, at all costs, of retaining in the hands of the royal family the command of the army, and his recommendations were confirmed by her husband, the Prince Consort, by Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel and Lord Beaconsfield, all of them men in whose counsel she placed the most profound confidence. The point they made was this, that as long as the commander-in-chief was a royal prince, he would be the direct and personal representative of the sovereign, independent to a great extent of Parliament and superior in influence and prestige to that Legislature's representative, the Secretary of State for War. If, on the other hand, the command of the army passed out of the hands of royalty into those of an ordinary general, the latter would necessarily become a sort of adjuvant to the Secretary, subservient to him and to Parliament, instead of to the Crown, a very important point when it is remembered that in previous reigns conflicts between Parliament and Throne have frequently occurred, one of them, indeed, culminating in the death on the scaffold of King Charles I. The Queen, however, finding at length that not only the Liberals, but even the Tories, were determined upon the change, deferred, as she has invariably done throughout her reign, to the will of her people, and virtually abandoned to Parliament her strongly cherished prerogative of the command of the army, matters being facilitated by the facts that there was at the time of the old Duke of Cambridge's retirement no royal prince of sufficient military standing and experience to enable his being appointed to the vacant office, and that the sovereign was not a man, but a woman. Indeed, the change would certainly have been

more difficult had the Prince of Wales been on the throne, since the constitution of every monarchical country in Europe provides that, theoretically at any rate, the command-in-chief of the army shall be vested in the hands of the sovereign.

This is the case, of course, in Italy. But in discussing the proposal to transform the army from a "royal" into a "national" force, the champions of the resolution, who included, of course, many of ex-Premier Crispi's friends, argued that the army was recruited for the defence not so much of the Throne as of the nation, and was paid by the latter; that the King was merely its chief officer, subject, like any other officer, to the orders of the nation; in fact, the King and the soldiers were alike the servants of the people who furnished the funds for their maintenance. It was added that the word "royal" now prefixed to "army" gave rise to the impression that the latter constituted merely a body of personal retainers of the sovereign, who, in the event of any conflict on his part with the people, would espouse his cause instead of that of the taxpayers, who, after all, were its paymasters.

## A CONFLICT IMMINENT IN GERMANY.

A conflict of this kind is no longer regarded as imminent in Italy. But it cannot be denied that something in this nature is apprehended in Germany, and more especially in Prussia, where monarch and people are daily drifting further

apart. That Emperor William anticipates some such struggle is apparent from all his recent utterances whenever he has occasion to address his troops, notably at Bielefeld last week, his favorite theme being the duty of the soldiers to hold themselves ready to defend with their life's blood their sovereign and his throne, not so much against the foreign foe as against the enemies within the frontiers of the Empire, and of the Kingdom. In presiding at the ceremony of the swearing in of the recruits, he never fails to remind them that their first duty is toward himself, rather than to the people who pay them, and he is never tired of expatiating on what he describes as the "King's cloth," that is to say, the uniform, which he, like many other sovereigns, chooses to regard as the livery, not of the State or of the Nation, but of the monarch, to whom the wearer is bound by special ties of allegiance, loyalty, and blind, unquestioning obedience. Nor must it be forgotten that in all instances of dispute and strife between civilians and military men the Emperor always upholds the latter, even when they are shown to be the aggressors, and actually to the extent of either pardoning or commuting the always lenient sentences that have been inflicted upon officers who, while drunk, have seriously wounded, and in some cases killed, unarmed and inoffensive civilians.

## THE KAISER FANS THE FLAME.

Nor is it without thought of the conflict which he sees ahead of him that Emperor William has in several instances decorated and promoted common soldiers who while doing sentinel duty had responded to the jibes and jeers of drunken men and of mischievous boys by shooting to kill, with deadly effect. The Prussians, the Saxons, and, in fact, the Germans of every State of the Empire fought in 1848 for their constitutional rights, which until that time had existed

only on paper, and in spite of the troops siding with the Crown against the people, they carried the day, though not without terrible loss of life. These rights, secured at such a heavy cost, Emperor William alone of all the sovereigns in the Old World is seeking to annul, the State-Socialist craze, which he manifested at the time of the disgrace of Bismarck, having now given way to a determination to revive autocracy and monarchical despotism in its most medieval form. Thus, thanks to the fact that the Prussian Legislature is composed in the main of Government officials, and of territorial aristocracy imbued with feudal notions, he has managed to secure the enactment of a law forbidding the organization of associations and of public meetings of any kind whatsoever, save by the sanction of the Crown, and so outrageous in its terms that it would not be tolerated in any other civilized country of the world. On his attempting to get it passed by the Reichstag so as to secure its enforcement in the remainder of Germany, he was met by a overwhelming defeat, even the son of his Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, voting against him. Then, too, the Reichstag having declined to vote the enormous credits which he demanded for the purpose of building a sufficient number of cruisers to place the German Navy on the same level as that of Great Britain, he has given orders to the Naval Department of the Empire to go ahead with the construction of the ships without any regard whatsoever for the Reichstag, whose members,

## A BOY OF GREAT POWER.

## HE LIFTS WEIGHTS AND BREAKS BARS—AMUSEMENTS OF THE COMING WEEK.

Another strong man is promised for to-morrow night at Koster & Bial's. He should rather be called a strong boy, for he is only seventeen years old, but he is said to be as strong as a man. That is to say, he can lift nine hundred pounds or thereabout. Some men can do no more. Breaking iron bars is also a favorite pastime of his. His name is Max Unger. He was born in Berlin, and came to this country with his parents when he was very young. He has lived in this city ever since. He used to take his exercise with other boys in the gymnasium, but he never thought of his strength as of any great moment till he met Professor Atilla, who was for some time associated with Sandow. He became Professor Atilla's pupil, and it was under his training that he developed the amazing strength which he is now said to possess. He has given some private exhibitions already.

In the roof garden at Koster & Bial's to-morrow night Nita Nisa's boy band will make its first appearance in this country. Another name for the organization is the Loretta Juvenile Band. It has made tours in Italy, France and Germany, and is said to have been received with much favor.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The performance of to-morrow night at the Herald Square Theatre will be the 250th of "The Girl from Paris." There will naturally be souvenirs.

The changes which were so sweepingly made in "A Round of Pleasure" at the Knickerbocker Theatre last week have apparently done it much good. It seems to move with much more vigor than formerly and to be appreciated more.

The Casino prospers with "The Whirl of the Town." The fiftieth performance, with souvenirs, is promised for July 8. The variety entertainment, with ballet, is continued on the roof, and it usually attracts good crowds when the weather is suitable.

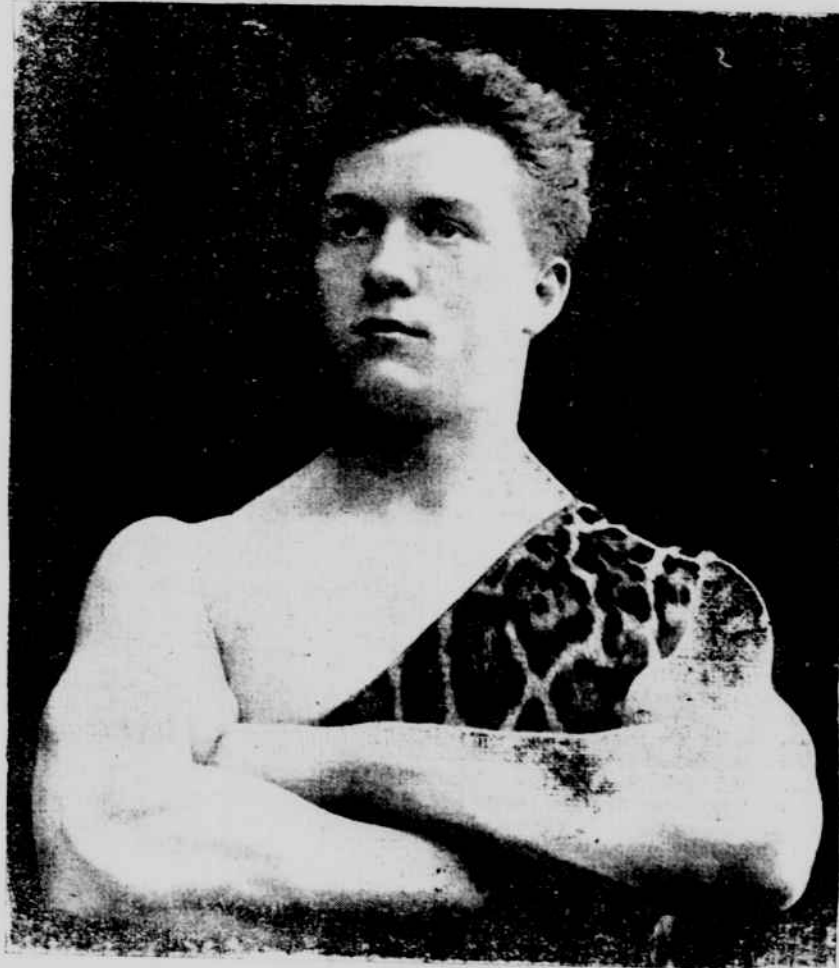
The continuous entertainment at Tony Pastor's Theatre this week will be provided by McIntyre and Heath, in their sketch entitled "Georgia Minstrels"; Bronson and Bronson, in "Fallen from Grace"; the Greater New-York Trio, composed of Miss Jessie Charron, Miss Sadie Spencer and "Nick" Conway; Lew Hawkins, Menchen's Kinetikon, Miss Maud Nugent, Fraulein Bertha Wagner and Bruno Armin, Daly and Devere, in their Irish sketch; Carr and Tourgee, musical team; Harry Thomson, mimic; Allyn and Lingard, in songs, dances and changes; Miss Marguerite Daly, soubrette, and Miss Mamie Gray.

The Eden Musée is always open and always popular in hot and cool weather. The assemblies are diverted by concerts, cinematographic views and waxworks.

"A Southern Romance," adapted from Dora Higby's novel, "In God's Country," by B. B. Valentine and Leo Dietrichstein, will be produced at the Fifth Avenue Theatre on September 6, opening the season at that house.

The persistency of "Under the Red Robe" is again manifested in the announcement of the managers of the Empire Theatre that it will be continued for another week. The run is quite ready for its end, when the public and the weather so will it, and some of the actors are more than ready to close their season's work.

At Proctor's, Twenty-third-st., to-morrow the bill offers two promising novelties. The first of these is a comedieta called "Cut Off With a Shilling," by S. Thayer Smith, which will be interpreted by Miss Virginia Stuart, George C. Staley and Edward Morant. The other is "My Angel Wife," by Kenneth Lee. The bill also includes Florida and Lewis, the Stewart Sisters, Miss Truly Shattuck, vocalist; Lee and Chapman, in a new sketch; Keller and Mack, Bob Co. and Billy Johnson, Lizzie Booth, in songs and dances; Valley Eager, the Davenport Brothers, Mayer Cohen, in descriptive songs; stereopticon illustrations; W. J. Sully, in a monologue; Lucier and Groove, and others. The Sunday bill will be in continuous progress from 2:30 to 11 p. m.



MAX UNGER, THE STRONG BOY.

although they represent the electorate of the entire German Empire, he has not hesitated to stigmatize in a public letter addressed to his brother Henry, as "unpatriotic," "homeless" and "contemptible tramps."

Now the Germans, as Americans have been able to perceive by their intercourse with them in this country, are probably of all European nations the most intellectual, sensible and highly educated, and it stands to reason that they will never permit themselves to be deprived of their political individuality and prerogatives, or to be reduced to the condition of ignorant serfdom under which they labored in the Middle Ages. They have mastered that principle which is the true foundation of every system of constitutional government, namely, that he who pays taxes shall have a voice in the disposal of the money contributed for national purposes. The feeling of personal loyalty to the sovereign, which was such a feature and such a source of strength to the Crown in the days of old Emperor William and of his noble-hearted son, has declined to dangerously near the freezing point, and those who are best in a position to know do not hesitate to declare that unless the terrible malady of the ear, which is responsible for much of the Emperor's eccentric conduct, either carries him off suddenly or renders necessary the institution of a regency (as in the case of his granduncle, King Frederick William IV, who lost his reason through the same disease), a violent conflict is bound shortly to break forth between the Emperor and his people.

## ATTITUDE OF THE GERMAN ARMY.

What will be the attitude of the army should the anticipated struggle between Crown and people take place? In court and official circles at Berlin it is believed that the Emperor will be able to rely upon his troops. But this opinion is in no way shared by the people themselves, nor